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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 2 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 16 and 31 May 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 16-31 May 1998

1. In the northern region 80 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar and Baibo.

2. In the southern region 669 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Suq al-Shuyukh, Hamzah, Maymunah and Abu Sukhayr.

3. Twelve violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1440 hours on 12 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

5. At 1134, 1225, 1305, 1616 and 1020 hours on 13 and 14 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

6. At 0940, 1620, 1633 and 1645 hours on 15 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

7. At 0380, 0840, 1030, 0850 and 1700 hours on 21 and 23 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

8. At 1030 hours on 23 May 1998 the United States frigate Simpson (No. 56) was seen manoeuvring 5 nautical miles south of Mina' al-Bakr.

9. At 1208 hours on 27 May 1998 a formation of two United States aircraft dropped 10 heat flares on Hayy al-Muthanna in Ninawa Governorate.